Appointment of Directors in PSEs

†2205. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the persons whose names have been cleared for appointment as Chairman/Managing Directors in PSEs during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the names of persons out of these against whom CVC had passed strictures and recommended against their appointment;

(c) the reasons for appointment against the said posts, despite adverse comments; and

(d) the details of officers who have been cleared of charges levelled against them after taking over charge of the said offices?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Central Vigilance Commission, during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06, vigilance clearance was not given or withheld in case of one candidate included in the panel recommended by Public Enterprises Selection Board for selection of the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited.

(c) The said candidate was not appointed to the relevant post.

(d) Does not arise.

Delay in obtaining Navratna status

2206. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised the norms for declaring a PSU as Navratna company; if so, the reasons for revising the norms;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that certain Government PSUs like Shipping Corporation of India and others now have to wait for a longer period to obtain the status of Navratna company; and

(c) whether this delay is causing any hindrance to the rapid development of these companies in view of the fact that many restrictions are not there for Navratna companies?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is a two stage screening process for conferment of Navratna status to the eligible Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) which have Miniratna category-I status. The first stage is the screening by an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC). The recommendations of the IMC are considered by the Apex Committee. The Navratna status is granted to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) on the basis of recommendations of the Apex Committee. This process takes certain reasonable time.

(c) The Government has recently enhanced the powers delegated to Miniratna and other profit making CPSEs. The powers delegated to Miniratna category-I for capital expenditure have been increased from Rs. 300 crore or equal to networth, whichever is less, to Rs. 500 crore or equal to networth, whichever is less, and for investment in joint ventures/subsidiaries, the power for one project has been enhanced from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 500 crore. The overall ceiling on such investment in all projects together was also increased from 15% to 30% of the networth. These are intended to enable CPSEs to grow faster.

Appointment of independent Directors in PSEs

2207. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some listed PSEs still do not have sufficient number of independent non-Government Directors as required by the Clause 49 of Listing Agreement of SEBI;